

TL-6 – “Buy Local” Program

Benefit/Cost of Reducing CO₂e:

New Mexico: 5.9 MMt between 2007-2020; 1.1% of 2020 emissions; \$0.2/ton

Assessment: Medium Priority. Bin B. 10 out of 22 votes.

This policy option could yield GHG emissions benefits and could help support Utah’s economy. However, additional research is required to determine the optimal form of such a policy and to assess its cost effectiveness. There may be a point where such a program is counterproductive – for example, tomatoes from a local hothouse may be more energy consumptive than trucking tomatoes from Arizona. Also, there may be the unintended consequence: If every state implements a “buy local” program, what happens to the economic sectors where Utah most exports goods?

The goal of “buy local” programs is to reduce vehicle miles traveled and associated GHG emissions through the encouragement of consumers to buy locally-produced goods. Such programs can include both incentives and consumer education. An important co-benefit of a “buy local” program is the support it lends the statewide economy.